

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 ACDA-07 OES-06 DLOS-06

/110 W

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R 221546Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9854

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, SS, MO, SP

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN-SPANISH RELATIONS: FISHING TALKS STALL AGAIN

REF: RABAT 4427

1. SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCES ADVISED THAT, CONTRARY TO GOS EXPECTATIONS

FISHING TALKS WHICH HAD BEEN BILLED AS "CONCLUSIVE" AT THEIR OUTSET ON SEPTEMBER 7 HAD AGAIN STALLED. ALTHOUGH OUR SPANISH CONTACTS MAINTAINED THAT THE REASONS WERE OVER REAL ISSUES (ESPECIALLY ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEDIAN LINE BETWEEN THE MAINLAND AND THE CANARIES), THERE WAS SOME HINT THAT THE MOROCCANS MIGHT BE AGAIN PLAYING POLITICS AND ATTEMPTING TO GENERATE LEVERAGE ON THE SPANISH BY POSING OBSTACLES. WE HAVE FROM ONE MOROCCAN SOURCE AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT THE SPANISH ORIGINALLY AGREED TO NAME A CONSUL GENERAL TO EL AYOUN IN EXCHANGE FOR A SIMILAR MOROCCAN NOMINATION TO LAS PALMAS. THIS PRIVATE COMMITMENT WAS ALLEGEDLY UNDERTAKEN AT THE TIME OF THE MADRID ACCORDS AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT PRIOR TO THE 1976 UNGA. THE MOROCCANS RECENTLY NAMED BOUBKAR BENNOUNS TO THE LAS

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PALMAS POST, NOT AN INSIGNIFICANT MOVE IN LIGHT OF LATENT GOM CLAIMS

TO THE CANARIES.

2. COMMENT: THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY SOME TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO
PARTIES OVER THE DEGREE OF "HELP" THE SPANISH MIGHT PROVIDE ON
THE SAHARA IN THE UPCOMING UNGA. WHETHER THIS TENTION WILL SERIOUSLY
DAMAGE THE VASTLY IMPROVED CLIMATE IN THE TWO SIDES' BILATERAL RELATIONS

BEARS WATCHING AS THE TWO GO INTO THE UNGA. ANDERSON

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